

Applicant : Gary B. Cohen, et al.  
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### REMARKS

Claims 1-41 are pending, with claims 1, 20, 26, 30, 40, and 41 being independent. Claims 18, 23-24, 28, and 30 have been canceled. Claims 1, 20, 25, 26, and 30 have been amended. New independent claim 41 has been added. Reconsideration and allowance of the above-referenced application are respectfully requested. New claims and claim amendments are presented herein to obviate the current rejection.

#### 35 USC § 101

Claim 30 has been amended to delete the reference to "a propagated signal". Therefore, the objection to claims 30-39 under 35 USC § 101 should be withdrawn.

#### 35 USC § 103

Claims 1-5 and 7-40 stand rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Office in view of ForeHelp. Claim 6 stands rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Office in view of Forehelp and Utting. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 has been amended to recite "enabling an author to generate one or more help files that specify content to be displayed and at least one interactive link, the content associated with at least one user-activated step to take in connection with a help topic, wherein the interactive link when activated, invokes an operation in the computer software application via an application programming interface of the computer software application to effect the at least one

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user-activated step associated with the specified content if a state of the computer software application is compatible with the at least one user-activated step." Similar amendments were made to claims 20, 26, 30, and 40 and similar features were included in new claim 41.

Neither of Office or ForeHelp describe an arrangement in which an interactive link is provided that when activated, invokes an operation in a computer software application via an API to effect at least one user-activated step if a state of the computer software application is compatible with the at least one user-activated step. Office states that its "Windows Help is more than a tool for creating context-sensitive documentation for your latest business application" (see, *inter alia*, Windows 455). However, this context-sensitive documentation relates to what type of documentation is to be presented as opposed to what type of user-activated operations will occur when an interactive link is selected. For example, Windows states that with Word, a GetActiveWindow API function retrieves a handle for a current Word window so that a help file associated with that type of window may be displayed (see, *inter alia*, Windows page 483).

Similarly, ForeHelp describes the use of context numbers to identify targets and topics (see, *inter alia*, ForeHelp page 167). With this arrangement, a context number is used so that a File Import topic may be displayed each time a user presses F1 while an File Import dialog box is displayed (*Id.*). These context numbers may be provided by a programmer or they may be provided by a help author (see, *inter alia*, ForeHelp page 168). Again, the use of context numbers as well as context strings relates to the initial display of help information relating to the current operation context of an application. There is no suggestion within either of Windows or

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ForeHelp that an operation in the computer software application can be invoked via an application programming interface of the computer software application to effect the at least one user-activated step associated with specified content. Moreover, neither of the references suggest that a state of the computer software application may be taken into account to determine a compatibility of the at least one user-activated step.

Accordingly, claims 1, 20, 26, 30, 40, and 41, and their respective dependent claims should be allowable.

#### Interview

On September 7, 2005, the undersigned participated in a telephonic interview with Examiner Ingberg. During the course of the interview, the undersigned indicated the differences between the recited claims and the cited references. The Examiner indicated that any amendments would be considered. However, no agreement was reached.

#### Concluding Comments

It is believed that all of the pending claims have been addressed in this paper. However, failure to address a specific rejection, issue or comment, does not signify agreement with or concession of that rejection, issue or comment. In addition, because the arguments made above are not intended to be exhaustive, there may be reasons for patentability of any or all pending claims (or other claims) that have not been expressed. Finally, nothing in this paper should be construed as an intent to concede any issue with regard to any claim, except as specifically stated

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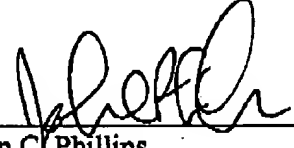
in this paper, and the amendment of any claim does not necessarily signify concession of unpatentability of the claim prior to its amendment.

Applicant asks that all claims be allowed. Please charge \$200.00 for excess claim fees and apply any other charges not covered or credits to deposit account 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

9/19/05

  
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